n. OTHER WORK

1. Parliamentary Fellowship Pro gramme Diploma Courses

   The Institute has conducted 3 Fellowship Programmes and 3 Diploma Courses during these 3 years.

2. Lectures and Seminars

   Two Lectures and a 3-day National Seminar were organised by the Institute during this period. Also, the U.P. Branch of the Institute had organised 3 Seminars on different subjects during this period.

3. Consultancy Services

   The Institute has provided Consultancy Services to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in (i) Organisations of Commonwealth Whips Conference and Symposium on Pandit Nehru; (ii) the proposal for the establishment of G.B. Pant School of Politics and Public Policies; and (iii) award scheme for Hindi books in the field of Pprliamentary Studies.

4. Miscellaneous

   A Scholar from the German Democratic Republic was attached to the Institute under the Indo-GDR Cultural Exchange Programme. The scholar studies at the Institute from January to April, 1988.

Statement-II

Details of general body meeting of the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, during the last 3 years {1987-88 to 1989-90)

1. 16th General Body Meeting held on 16.1.1987

   This Meeting approved the per-formance-cum-achievement reports of the Institute for the years 1983-84 and 1984-85. The Balance Sheet and audited accounts for the years 1983-84 and 1984-85 were also approved. The Meeting also approved the appointment of the Institute's Auditors for the years 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88, **and** also settled the honorarium to be paid to the auditors.

   Various suggestions made by the members regarding enhancement of membership fee, Institute's building, staff matters etc. were considered and it was decided these suggestions may be referred to the executive council for consideration.

2. 17th General Body Meeting held on 16.12.1989

   The performance-cum-achievement reports for the years 1985-86 and 1986-87 had not been circulated and therefore it was decided that the agenda items might be taken up on another day after the circulation of these documents.

Setting up of Bank note presses in West Bengal and Karnataka

341. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress made in the setting up of two additional bank note presses, one in West Bengal and the other in Karnataka;

(b) whether these presses will go into production in the Eighth Plan period;

(c) what will be the production capacity of these presses; and

(d) whether the entire demand for fresh bank notes as projected by the **RBI** would be met by the commissioning of these presses?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Land has been acquired at the two project sites. Site development and preconstruction activities are under way at both the sites.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The annual production of these presses will be 4975 million pieces each at fully capacity.

(d) After the two presses are commissioned, it is expected that requirement of fresh bank notes as projected by RBI would be fully met.

Unutilised foreign aid funds

342. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that a large proportion of foreign aid funds remain unutilised because of either non-availability of appropriate projects as a'so due to lack of matching grants by India; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to remove the lacunae and to ensure that such aid is utilised as quickly as possible ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) A number of factors have contributed to less than anticipated utilisation of external loans/ credits. These include delay in securing mandatory approvals, resolution of technical issues, procurement and implementation delays and inadequate availability of counter-part funds.

The progress of projects financed with foreign assistance are constantly being reviewed. Procedures for approvals have been simplified and progress of projects is being monitored with a view to improving the disbursement of loans/credits already committed.

Fall in rupee value in relation to major international currencies

343. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons behind the steep fall in the value of rupee in relation to other currencies like the Dollar, Pound, Sterling, Yen, Deutschemark, etc.;

(b) whether Government are aware that further devaluation of rupee could be counter-productive in our efforts to improve the balance of payments position; and

(c) what would be the rates at which the value of rupee is to be stabilised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) The value of rupee is fixed with reference to the value of a basket of currencies, mainly of countries which are India's major trading partners. In a regime of floating exchange rates, therefore, upward or downward movements of the value of the rupee, which depend on the fluctuation in the value of "these currencies, is a normal phenomenon.

(b) The impact on the balance of payments position is taken into account in the exchange rate policy through the procedures mentioned in (a) above. The exchange rate is one of the policy instruments, which is used to achieve the developmental objectives. An appropriate balance has to be maintained in respect of the rupee exchange rate keeping in view the inflation rate in India and other major countries and our needs for external resources including our external financial and other obligations. As the exchange rates of major currencies are